



Cambridge POLICE Chronicle

c.34.7: Police

Chronology of events relating to policing in Cambridge 1888 to 1990

1891 02 26

Arrest of Daisy Hopkins who'd escaped from Spinning House produces outcry in press; University official convicted of carelessness & ignorance in exercise of his powers; feelings run high & series of meetings called to sort out the matter Because of a legal technicality Daisy had to be acquitted and she sued the University for damages. Once more it made headline news which prompted the University to surrender their powers over prostitutes to the police [2.16]

1894

University & Corporation Act provides for concurrent action by Proctors & town police in arresting loose women & abolishes Vice Chancellor's jurisdiction over them; Spinning House abolished[2.14,1.5,2.15]

1897 02 06

Charity Commission scheme; Corporation get entire use of Spinning House to expand police station, rebuild one day 1897 02 06 CDN

1898

Detachment of mounted police formed [3.1]

1898 06 09

Cambridge town council accepted a design for new police and fire brigade buildings, which it is proposed to erect upon the Spinning House site. If the new station is erected the whole of the existing buildings, which are not conspicuous for their beauty, will be removed, with the exception of the chief constable's house, and the fire station and firemen's quarters will be completely isolated from the police building. A new main entrance will be erected and it is suggested that the present stone gateway to the police station should be removed to the back entrance in Downing place. The only

elevation of any architectural pretensions will be the main facade towards St Andrews's street. A copula forming a central feature will serve as a "look-out" in connection with the fire station. The plans include provision for a mortuary CDN 1898 06 09

1898 07 11

At the Standing joint committee Mr H.G. Fordham proposed that the appointment of Parish Constables should be discontinued. In 1873 the Cambridgeshire quarter sessions had decided to continue them. That was 28 years ago and he contended that since then they had been rendered unnecessary. There was a considerable amount of friction and expense and they were of no real use except in rare instance. Six parishes in Cambridgeshire made no appointment. In Balsham the parish constable had not done duty for 15 years, and in Weston Colville no duty had been done for 40 years. In seventeen parishes there was no remuneration at all. In others the expenses varied from £10 downwards. The Chief Constable having said a good word for the parish constables expressed a hope that their appointment would be renewed 1898 07 11

1898 11 06

Saturday was a typical "fifth" in Cambridge. Faithfully following the precedent set in former years a number of Varsity men and townspeople assembled in the market place, which for three hours or so was crowded with excitable and pugilistically-inclined youths, representing Town and gown. The Gown driven from pillar to post by the howling mob, appeared to be greatly terrified, and despite the vigilance of the police, of whom a large number were told off for special duty, the celebration was not entirely free from violence. Neither town nor gown missed many opportunities of displaying their physical prowess and many are the reports circulated as to the results of the pugilistic encounters that ensued c1898 11 06

1898 11 24

Great crowds had been assembling outside Great St Mary's and the railings before the Senate House with the exception of a pathway of about five yards which the police were endeavouring to keep clear for those attending the honorary degree ceremony for Lord Kitchener. It was evidence that the constables were having hard work in keeping the crowds from encroaching. At length the looked-for rush took place and such was the force that the police were quite powerless to check it. A general scramble to get upon the railings ensued when without the slightest warning the railings suddenly gave way and fell outwards carrying many unfortunate persons to the ground with them. The solidity of this great piece of ironwork is well known and it is wonderful that more were not seriously injured 1898 11 24 [2.8]

1899 04 19

The days of the Cambridge Spinning House are numbered. It is to be pulled down in order that a house of detention after the best approved modern ideas may arise on its site. There is no more stirring chapter in the history of modern Cambridge than that which this forbidding looking building in St Andrews Street recalls. It speaks of many things which the Cambridge of today is glad to forget. It is an ugly monument of an ugly feud between the authorities of the University and town. The feud is dead: would that the razing to the ground of the Spinning House were sufficient to efface all memory of it 1899 04 19

1899 04 19

An inquiry held heard that half of the Spinning House was occupied as a police station. It had been built about 1840 and was far from up to date. There was no difference between the accommodation for male and female prisoners, and any women that might be kept in the police station all night had to be attended to by police constables on duty, there being no female warders or matrons. The cells were clean and in good order but were quite inadequate for the requirements of the town 1899 04 19

1900 03 03

There was great rejoicings in Cambridge on the relief of Ladysmith and despite the edict sent forth by the University authorities the conduct of the undergraduate element was again such as to necessitate the

intervention of the police. The Varsitymen managed to draw police attention off the market place to scenes elsewhere and, during their temporary absence, succeeded in lighting a bonfire. There was great excitement as one by one the wooden frameworks of the stalls was committed to the flames. The band-stand on Christ's Pieces was attacked and the seats removed to the Market and quickly consumed. Similar damage was occasioned in all parts of the town 00 03 03

1900 03 07

The ire of the undergraduate once roused, not even the powerful hand of Alma Mater suffices to entirely quell the wrath that has been kindled. An attacking force of undergraduates gathered many recruits as it made its way along Hills Road and it was at once seen that the objective was the Mayor's residence in Brooklands Avenue. They were dismayed to find the thoroughfare barricaded by a posse of police constables. The mob made a bold rush. The police partially yielded but not more than half of the 'Varsity flank passed through the cordon when the police closed ranks. The trap that had been set proved effective for those who marched triumphantly down the Avenue had not negotiated more than fifty yards when they were encountered by the Proctors mustered in strong force 00 03 07

1901 10 07

New police & fire stations open on site of Spinning House, St Andrews Street. The police station is part of the machinery which Society has devised for its own protection and for inflicting punishment upon wrong doers. In the golden age there will be no use for Police Stations, and the fine building of which Cambridge has just witnessed the opening may justifiably be converted into a Free Library. There is no virtue in locking up a wrong doer in an ugly prison and the architect of the new station, Mr John Morley, has designed a building which is an ornament to the town. The cells are not luxurious but they are not stifling. It is true the building has cost a good deal but is excellent value for money 01 10 07

1901 11 11

It being the King's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday it was expected that nightfall would be the occasion for rowdyism and possible an attempt to illuminate Cambridge Market Hill. The authorities cleared away the stalls, but their action left the historic centre of all "rags" open and free for the antics of the crowd. For a long time nothing occurred except the explosion of a few crackers or the discharge of a pistol from a window overlooking the hill. Large numbers of police were hustled about considerably, and were compelled to defend themselves, but compared with other 'rags', they did not have to exert themselves very much. It was a very tame, spiritless affair that will doubtless be deemed by the "bloods" to have been a complete failure, considering that practically no damage to property was done 01 11 11

1901 12 06

The arrest was reported from Queenstown of a Cambridge man on a warrant charging him with felony. Detective-Sergt Bryne effected the arrest on the outward-bound American steamer. The accused was travelling as a saloon passenger under an assumed name. As is well-known the man held a position of trust at Messrs Foster's bank and was actively identified with politics and parochial movements in the Abbey Ward. His disappearance from Cambridge has been the subject of many rumours. Detective Marsh has been sent to Queenstown to bring the accused to Cambridge 01 12 06

1902 01 14

After being 'wanted' by the police for years a man who is supposed to be a suspicious character named Villiers, was arrested by Scotland Yard detectives at his residence on Trumpington Road, Cambridge. They searched the house for a considerable time without finding him. At last he was discovered concealed between the ceiling and the roof. To this secret hiding place he had gained access by a door secreted behind a piece of furniture. The arrest is in connection with the publication of obscene literature and prints. Since being removed to the station the man has died. CDN 1902 01 14

1902 01 25

The Cambridge Watch Committee have disapproved of the holding of the annual Police dinner, feeling that it is not desirable that the police should be put into the position of seeking subscriptions from the public towards the meal. There are many people in the town who think kindly of the police and would gladly subscribe towards affording them a break in their laborious and somewhat monotonous lives. The CDN is ready to afford this generous feeling outlet and, providing the Committee offer no objection, a fund will be opened in our columns. There is no doubt that the proposal to give 'Robert' a treat of this kind will commend itself to the people of Cambridge CDN 1902 01 25

1902 04 24

'With detectives round the world' by Frank Longworth – capture at Cambridge of printer of objectionable books – 37 04 24b

1902 05 02

A deep feeling of horror spread like lightning through Cambridge when it was reported that a cook at a Cambridge college had committed suicide. Enquiries show he was fearful of being drawn into the hearing of the Cambridge meat case and made to become a witness against his own brother. This undoubtedly preyed upon his mind and he became exceedingly suspicious of any stranger entering the college hall. The other day a friend observed: "I see you have a new waiter". "No", he replied, "he is a detective shadowing me" 02 05 02

1902 05 10

The funeral of P.C. Thompson of the Cambridge police was conducted on military lines. His comrades, accompanied by members of the Borough Fire Brigade, marched to Sturton Street. As the coffin was brought out of the house the police band played the death march in "Saul" and Drum Major Inspector Johnson, his staff draped with crepe, led the hearse & mourning coaches in procession to Mill Road cemetery. The route was lined by people and many were the manifestations of sympathy with the mourners. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr Ellis Merry. CDN 1902 05 10

1902 06 03

Peace in South Africa produced strife in Cambridge – one of those fierce contests between the police and the united forces of town and gown which, combined with the destruction of property, constitutes a "rag". In King Street a large double gate was attacked as wood for a bonfire but a vigorous-looking dame appeared from the other side. Her only weapon was a duster, but such a formidable appearance did she present that the crowd melted away before her advance. Skirmishers went towards the Circus of Varieties to obtain a hoarding but this was well guarded and soon they were retracing their steps. 02 06 03

1902 12 03

Well-deserved tributes were paid to the excellent work by Detective-Sergeant Marsh. It has been owing to his sagacity and promptness that a number of exceedingly slippery rogues have been brought to book during the past few months. His capture of the man sentenced for stealing the cash box from Messrs Stearn was made in the nick of time – a few minutes later and he would have been too late. One especially noticeable feature about his methods is his scrupulous fairness to accused persons, a matter of the highest importance in the proper administration of justice CDN 1902 12 03

1902 12 04

The Provost of Kings said that whatever good had been done by the University Spinning House it was of a very rough and ready kind. It succeeded in arresting women in a course of evil, and sending them to their homes, but one could not say much for the humanising and Christianising influence that was brought to bear upon the women there. In any town there was a probability of evil and if they added 3,000 young men in their hey-day of youth, many of them without fixed principles of right and wrong, and a number of young women coming from bad homes and bearing an hereditary disposition for evil there must be some danger. 02 12 04

1903 11 07

Time once was when the concentrated animosity between Cambridge Town and Gown found annual outlet on 'The Fifth'. There are many old inhabitants who have seen the traditional riots gradually die down with the building up of mutual ties between University and Town. Athletic Varsitymen and pugilistic townsmen no longer belabour each other; they join issue in attempts at bonfires with police baiting thrown in as a sideline. At Castle End undergraduates managed to secure a shutter with the intention of making it the nucleus of a bonfire; a constable was rolled to the ground, his helmet knocked off and his whistle and truncheon lost before more policemen arrived and three arrests were made – one member of the Varsity, a soldier and a townsman c03 11 07

1904 01 30

A savage attack has been perpetrated by a prisoner at the Cambridge gaol upon a warder named Andrews, which resulted in severe injuries. Amongst a gang of prisoners chipping wood was one of morose disposition who suddenly rushed upon the unsuspecting warder and dealt him a terrible blow with a hatchet. Assistance was at hand and the prisoner was secured. He has been reported to magistrates and subjected to a severe flogging for his cowardly assault. Flogging is the most severe punishment than can be inflicted on a prisoner and is only carried out in serious cases such as this, or for mutiny. 04 01 30

1904 05 18

The unexpected death of a prisoner at the Cambridge Prison occasioned the holding of an inquest. The man's name appeared to be Patrick O'Shea, though as a matter of fact he had a variety of names – Nil, Laughton, Carrington, MacDonald, MacArthur, Montmorency and Hassan Effendi. He gave his age as 45 and his occupation that of a labourer and was committed for trial for stealing money in Wisbech. Warder Andrews said he heard a noise from the cell and found the man apparently in a fit. Death was due to apoplexy. 04 05 18

1904 07 25

The publication of Mr John Sweeney's book 'At Scotland Yard' recalls one of the most sensational tragedies Cambridge has known. The detective mentions the arrest and subsequent death of the swindler who styled himself 'Dr Sinclair Roland' and resided at a well-furnished, expensively-rented house called Edenfield in Trumpington Road. It had been chosen for its security from observation and general utility as a hiding place. There was an elaborate system of cupboards and secret passages by which he could hide or escape. But the police blocked every exit, a systematic search was made and a secret panel discovered where the man was found. He called for a glass of water and fell dead, having taken poison which he carried in a ring. 04 07 25

1904 11 07

The results of the fifth of November 'rag' in Cambridge were more or less serious injuries to two policemen, considerable damage to private property and several police-court summonses. A little boy engaged in firing a squib in the midst of a 'ragging' party proceeding along Jesus Lane was knocked down by a cyclist and rendered insensible. Fortunately he was soon revived by a number of undergraduates who at once attended to him. One man fainted and another was admitted to Hospital suffering from injuries to the head caused by his being knocked down by a cab. 04 11 07

1904 11 10

The King's birthday is one of those occasions upon which a certain section of the 'Varsity and Town consider it necessary to turn themselves into public nuisances. This year they avoided the Borough police by making a raid on Chesterton. The mob made tracks for Midsummer Common with the object of having a bonfire. Several hundred crossed Jesus Green Bridge where a council of war was held. Carlyle Road was mention as leading to fuel for the fire but a number of the belligerents made an incursion down a private road. Several fences were broken down and flames shot into the air as the surreptitiously-obtained timber was thrown on to the fire. No police appeared on the scene, though a number of members of the Force were on duty on the borough side of the river 04 11 10

1905 03 06

Undergraduates started a bonfire on Parker's Piece with the aid of a wooden fence from the front of a house in Melbourne Place. One of the proctors who arrived on the scene before the appearance of the police became the object of the amusement of a large number of roughs, some of whom, after having smashed the hats of the 'bulldogs' began to hustle him. He escaped actual injury owing chiefly to the stalwart and vigorous defence of the 'bulldogs' assisted by one or two townsmen. The fire was extinguished by a bucket of water 05 03 06b

1905 06 15

The whole of the Duchess of Westminster's missing jewellery has been discovered in Cambridge including a very valuable pearl necklace and twenty diamond brooches. Police arrested a Cambridge man formerly employed as a night watchman at Grosvenor House; they then went to a house in Priory Road and to a field up Newmarket Road where the jewellery was found. 05 06 15a & others

1905 08 05

The burglary scare in Romsey Town has caused several amusing and one dangerous incident. A gentleman was keeping an all-night watch for the burglar and about 1.30 a.m. thought he observed his quarry. At any rate a revolver which he had in his possession went off. The bullet sped across the street and through the window of a house opposite. It cut two holes in the hanging curtains, smashed a large fruit dish and ended its career in a photographic frame. 05 08 05e

1905 10 14

The Trumpington Road has an unenviable notoriety for being frequented by shady and suspicious characters. Lately the large houses have suffered depredations at the hands of one of the burgling fraternity. Police supervision should be strengthened: one constable was not sufficient. The Chief Constable said that being with easy reach of London they offered a tempting bait to the criminals of the metropolis. The man involved pretended to be collecting for a cricket club. He was today being tried at Exeter 05 10 14b

1905 11 09

Sir - On 1<sup>st</sup> March 1904 a sergeant of the Metropolitan Police, sent to Cambridge on the occasion of the King's visit, was violently assaulted and kicked by an undergraduate. After six months' illness, during which his pay amounting to £54 was paid by the Borough of Cambridge, he was pensioned off as unfit for service. On 5<sup>th</sup> November 1904 a constable, having taken one undergraduate into custody, was brutally attacked by others and was left insensible. He has been on the sick list ever since and pensioned off. All members of the University should co-operate to prevent such scenes of riot and disorder - H.M. Taylor, Trinity College. 05 11 09

1905 11 09

It is almost incredible that any undergraduate should so far demean himself as to treat a policeman with the blackguard violence of a hooligan. If we have hitherto been inclined to take a lenient view of the occasional destruction of property it was because we felt sure the grosser acts were the work of town loafers who were encouraged by thoughtless undergraduates. But those who took part in gutting a shop should suffer the legal penalty and not be saved from imprisonment by University authorities. - Cambridge Review 05 11 09a

1905 11 16

Cambridge police have warned of a new fraud; people receive a letter from a man who claims to have served in the Cuban war and came to England bringing with him a trunk containing £39,000 which has been deposited in a bank. If the recipient will send enough money for the writer's daughter to collect it then she will give them a quarter of that sum. The swindle has gone on for years; the bait is so plausible that many simple people fall victim to the fraud. 05 11 16

1905 11 23

P.C. Broughton, a young constable, was injured during the disgraceful 'rag' of November 5<sup>th</sup> last year. He was kicked whilst on the ground and injured by an undergraduate whom it had been impossible to trace. He had been sent to a Convalescent Home for two months and medical experts called in but had suffered a spinal injury and would not work again. He had been strong but was now crippled and doubled up. He was granted a pension equal to the full pay he was receiving at the time - £1 5s 7d a week. 05 11 23

1906 04 07

The Isleham Baptist pastor was sentenced to seven days in Cambridge county gaol but only served four. Having entered on Monday evening he was released on Saturday, as they do not keep a prisoner over the Sunday. He brought out with him a huge lump of the brown bread that formed the chief article of his diet: it was served with tea for breakfast, with soup for dinner and cocoa for supper. 06 04 07c-d

1906 07 31

Burglar hunting as a popular amusement had 'caught on' in Cambridge. Large crowds gathered in the neighbourhood of Park Terrace expecting to see the police emerge with two or more stalwart ruffians who had the impudence to enter Mr Sturton's house and rifle his pockets. They are thought to be playing a skilful game of hide-and-seek with police in and out of the six houses which comprise part of the Terrace; eager eyes are directed to the parapet and expectations entertained of seeing a desperate chase along the roof. But no one was seen. 06 07 31a

1906 11 12

With the death of John William Cooper Cambridge loses one of its most pronounced personalities. As a barrister in the Daisy Hopkins case he ruthlessly exposed the evils of the Spinning House and few can understand the amount of good work he did behind the scenes. Latterly folk have agreed that he was breaking up, but though he may have suffered physically he never showed signs that his mental vigour had diminished. 06 11 12a & b & c

1907 03 15

William Maltby of Devonshire Road joined the police force in 1849, rising to the rank of inspector. In those days constables wore top hats instead of helmets with cut-away coats around which they wore a belt of piratical proportions. There were only 30 constables, two inspectors and a superintendent whose headquarters were in Emmanuel Road. 07 03 15

1907 12 10

"For an isolated policeman to be attacked and beaten to death by eight or ten students is an occurrence which happens almost once a week at Cambridge or Oxford", writes a correspondent in the 'Messagero', (Rome). He adds that it is common for a group of about 50 undergraduates to wreck a shop as if a dynamite bomb had exploded in it when "the honest tradesman had refused them credit". In the theatre undergraduates do what they like, interrupt the actresses, start discussions with the actors on the stage, beat the orchestra and upset the stalls, he alleges. 07 12 10

1908

Borough justices considers probation service & appoints 2 men & 1 woman on voluntary basis [6.5]

1908 03 09

Mr A.H. Hawke has been appointed Governor of the Cambridge Prison. He has served at Wandsworth, Wakefield and Hull and takes a great interest in social reform, life saving and ambulance work. His recreations are cycling, lawn tennis and chess. 08 03 09b

1908 04 17

When the jury retired to consider their verdict at the Assize Court, Castle Hill, they were taken down a flight of cold stone steps into a narrow chamber of sordid aspect, dimly lit by three barred windows and furnished with two bare wooden forms. The Court does not want the retiring room made too

comfortable, but there must have been times when they have made up their minds hastily to escape from that dungeon. Now a new room has been built, with a lavatory. But the court is still illuminated by gas and flooded with fumes. Silver-tongued barristers halt while the custodian, armed with his long pole, leans from the dock to light it. 08 04 17c

1908 05 16

A wardress at the County Gaol, Castle Hill, told the inquest that a single mother and her baby had been put in the reception cell and slept on a plank bed with a mattress. In the morning the baby was dead and she concluded the prisoner had overlaid it. There was no room for cradles in reception cells, which were very small, and when they were provided in the main cells the mothers never thought of laying babies there at night. The Coroner did not attach any blame to anyone. The narrow bed was altogether insufficient for the child and mother and now they knew that would not happen again. The jury said a cot should be provided. 08 05 16b

1908 08 14

John Deeks joined the Cambridge Police Force in 1887 when it had strength of 34 – half of what it is today. In those days policemen were paid two shillings and sixpence to attend fires so they were strongly represented at each outbreak, with officers attracted from their usual beats. Men were not often ‘run in’ because of drunkenness but now they are summonsed if they attempted to fight. He became a Police Court Missionary working with habitual drunks who often signed the pledge but broke it within an hour CWN 08 15 14

1908 10 09

Cambridge Prison is satisfactory and discipline well-maintained. The number of male prisoners last year was 818 and their conduct generally good. They are employed at oakum picking, sawing, chopping and bundling wood, gardening and building work while the female prisoners do needlework, knitting, laundry work and cleaning. One female prisoner, aged 66, was baptised at her own request. The schoolmaster has carried out his duties with zeal in his new schoolroom where 45 prisoners have been under instruction. There has been no escape, no attempt at escape and no case for corporal punishment CWN 08 10 09 p3

1908 11 20

A young married woman lies in Cambridge gaol accused of wilful murder. In the tiny parlour of a typical country cottage is the dead body of her year-and-four-month old baby, a bonny dark-eyed plumped-cheek babe, drowned in the filth of a cesspool. Upon a little bed in another room lies another little girl slowly recovering from the effects of immersion in the same cesspool. Too young to realise the terrible experience she has been through she murmurs “Mummy did it; she said it was best” CWN 08 11 20

1909

Separate court for juveniles & police sergeant paid 10/- for each of three cases in which he acted as probation officer; within a year County probation service began [6.5]

1909 02 12

Cambridge Police has a special staff of men employed in looking after unoccupied houses. The intending burglar who usually watches the policeman on his beat pass the empty property he intends to break into cannot now know when he may be dropped upon. Last year 802 residents used the service and except for one house in Madingley Road, where the gates were locked and police unable to obtain access, there has been no robbery from an unoccupied house of which they have been given notice. CWN 09 02 12

1909 07 23

The first visit of the Cambridge Police Force band to Coton some years ago will not soon be forgotten. A resident had arranged for a wagonette for their conveyance but when turning a corner by Gt St Mary's they were surprised to see a wheel careering along beside them and the wagon

gracefully toppled over, depositing the bandsmen in the roadway. They continued by charabanc but their former driver was accosted by a policeman and ordered to 'clear that wreckage away' or he would be run in. Considering he had brought it over for the conveyance of the police band his indignation can be imagined CWN 09 07 23

## 1910

1910

Police start welfare scheme & supply boots to 160 poor children [3.3]

1910 03 04

Few have any clear idea of the variety and extent of the services which the police render. They see the policeman about the streets, patrolling his beat or standing on point duty and have no hesitation in appealing to him in almost any little dilemma. But their annual report shows they keep a watchful eye upon temporarily unoccupied houses, visit common lodging houses, attend fires, take charge of lost property, inspect stage and hackney carriages and attend to dangerous dogs. There are 54 constables, average age 36 years. CWN 10 03 04h & I

1910 03 11

A stable in Water Street, Old Chesterton, was the scene of a shocking tragedy. A 50-year-old labourer had been living with a 58 year-old woman who earned her living by travelling about the county with a caravan in the summer, visiting fairs, and in the winter time she hawked coal and coke about local villages. When he appeared in court his complexion stamped him at once as a man used to working in the open air. His face and neck were alike brick red in colour and seamed with thousands of wrinkles, the black hair was cut fairly short, but the grizzled moustache was rather ragged. He was dressed in corduroys and heavy boots. He had no collar or neck wrap and his vivid red shirt showed at the top of the sleeved waistcoat he was wearing. 10 03 11a & b

1910 04 09

"Cambridge an irresistible attraction for professional thieves down from London"; group caught loading stolen bicycles on train 10 04 09

1910 06 03

The courtroom was packed for the trial of a man accused of murder at a stable in Water Street, Chesterton. A nearby house was lived in by a 58-year-old woman who earned her living by travelling about the country with a caravan in summer, visiting fairs, and in winter time she hawked coal and coke about local villages. A squabble with a 50-year-old labourer with whom she was living resulted in him cutting her brother's throat with a carving knife. He was sentenced to hang. 10 06 03 b & c

1910 06 17

At the last stroke of eight o'clock in the morning James Henry Hancock paid the extreme penalty of the law for the murder of Alfred Doggett at Chesterton. The execution took place at the County Gaol, Castle Hill. Pierpoint was the executioner, assisted by his brother, and they accomplished their deadly work with marvellous celerity, death having been absolutely instantaneous. Only the Deputy Sheriff, the Governor of the Prison, the Prison Chaplain and Doctor were present but a crowd of several hundred assembled on the pavement opposite the Shire Hall. They kept their gaze fixed on the flag-staff, unaware that the practice of hoisting the black flag has been discontinued. Nor was the bell tolled. 10 06 17b

1910 06 17

It is 12 years since the extreme penalty of the law was last paid within the walls of the County Gaol. The last culprit was Walter Horsford, the notorious St Neots poisoner, who was hanged on 28th June 1898 for the murder of his cousin. Prior to that there was a long period during which the hangman was not called upon for it was as far back as December 1876 that Robert Browning was executed for the murder of a woman on Midsummer Common. The last public execution in the county was in March

1864 when a man was hanged for the murder of a girl at Whittlesey. Shortly after this the law was passed putting a stop to executions in public and the tendency now is for complete privacy 10 06 17c

1910 11 11

An undergraduate was fined for assaulting a policeman on Guy Fawkes night. A considerable amount of damage had been done, hoarding demolished, gas lamps broken, the railway station raided and milk churns overturned. The most serious incident occurred at Jesus Sluice footbridge where a battle royal took place between members of the County Constabulary and a large party of undergraduates and town roughs. They stoned the police, all of whom were hit, and PC Johnson was struck on the forehead by a piece of board and rendered unconscious. Only the arrival of police reinforcements had averted further trouble. 10 11 11 & a

1910 12 23

A gruesome relic has been discovered during renovations at the Hoop Hotel. It is a human skeleton grimly suggestive of a crime committed in days gone by, a victim's remains ingeniously hidden by a murderer. For hundreds of years generations of people have passed along Bridge Street recking nothing of the horrible trophy which lay some ten feet beneath the pavement. A workman discovered the bones of a woman placed just below the wall and floor of the wine cellar and above the foundations. 10 12 23

1911 01 26

Police given a day of rest - would need five extra policemen at cost of 23/7 (£1.18) a week [1.8,1.9,2.22,3.6]

1911 11 10

Serious 'ragging' took place in celebration of the 5th of November. A number of undergraduates carried 'life-preservers' and a violent assault made on the premises of Messrs Rattee and Kett where an employee was seriously injured. A mounted policeman was pulled from his horse and a police sergeant received a nasty cut over his eye. A member of the University was arrested for assault. But beyond the smashing of a number of street lamps little actual damage was done to property 11 11 10a & b

1919 11 12

"Fifth" fizzles at Cambridge,--The stage was set on Wednesday evening for an old-time celebration of the 5th of November. Proctors, "bulldogs," special constables, mounted police, mere "Roberts", undergraduates, townspeople and schoolboys turned out to play their respective roles, but nothing happened. A few fire-works - cannons, crackers etc — were discharged on Market Hill but the proceedings were almost as tame as the original affair arranged by Mr. Guy Fawkes and a few of his fanatical friends 19 11 12 CIPof

1912 01 19

Telephonic communication between the police-station and certain police-officers' houses was discussed. Some police houses were simply hired in an ordinary manner and they might have to move the telephone when a new policeman came to a village and took a different house to his predecessor. At Shelford the call office was only about 20 yards from the constable's house, but you couldn't call him. The Chief Constable said he didn't want a constable sitting in the house waiting to be called. His business is to be outside, looking after the property in the village. 12 01 19

1912 03 22

At present a police constable is entitled to a pension after serving 25 or 26 years on the beat. This is as much as most men are able to stand, including as it does a share of night work in all weathers. Policemen who are past their prime, unless by unusual intelligence they have risen from the ranks, are of little use in the Force and the value of their retention is doubtful. But to reduce their pay is astounding. The present sum was fixed more than 30 years ago when living was much cheaper, duties

were less exacting and men of a much lower grade of intelligence were considered suitable. A man must be hard put to it to accept such terms. – 12 03 22c

1912 03 29

The last meeting of the old Town Council rejected proposals to reduce policemen's wages. Thirty years ago any burly ruffian that could knock a man down was supposed to be good enough for a policeman. Today police must be courteous and tactful, able to render first-aid and resourceful in emergency. The presence of thousands of undergraduates made the work more trying and it says much for the present Force that even during a 'rag' there is seldom any friction of a vicious character between the 'Varsityman and 'Robert'. They must be incorruptible: often a policeman is offered a bribe to 'say nothing about it'. Yet in Cambridge the commencing wage is lower than at Oxford or Peterborough. 12 03 29b

1912 05 03

Police force report 12 05 03i

1912 05 10

The West Wrattling parish constable was dismissed: a man had used abusive language to Fred Pitts, bailiff to Mr E.P. Frost. But when Pitts complained to the constable he'd taken no action and used bad language himself. Parish constables were bound to act in the same way as ordinary constables. They were public servants and must 'come out' when called upon. To behave as this man did was scandalous. Many parish constables were very loyal; one had even 'gone against' his own son and carried out his duties without fear or favour. 12 05 10d

1912 05 30

Borough Extension brings Police Force into the new areas [2.24]

1912 07 19

The National Insurance Act has seen a great rush of insurable people to join approved societies and applications for cards have reached stupendous figures. Cambridge General Benefit Society was one of the first to be approved and have admitted 100 new members. To their disgust members of the Cambridge Police Force have been called on to contribute their fourpence a week under the Act. This is difficult to understand as they get almost full pay during sickness and receive free medical attendance from the Police Surgeons 12 07 19f & g

1912 10 04

Cambridge Prison Governor's annual report – 12 10 04i

1912 11 09

Police accused of violence every Guy Fawkes night: always complaints of heartless & brutal conduct of police - inhuman monsters who dash hither & thither - but what are respectable people doing out [3.1, 39.3.1]

1912 12 12

William Dobson, successor to the late Mr A.H. Hawke as Governor of the Cambridge Prison, was born in a police station in 1859 and has been connected with crime and criminals all his life. He was previously Chief Warder in the Borstal Institution at Feltham and believes that even judges do not realise what the system is doing to reduce crime. Mr Dobson married 25 years ago and has six children. His two eldest sons are soldiers and one of his brothers is Chief Inspector of the Newcastle City Police. 12 12 12f

1912 12 20

An inquest into a man who died at Cambridge gaol while awaiting trial was told he was a wheelwright who'd complained of pains in his insides for a long time. He'd suffered a haemorrhage. His wife said

she'd had every opportunity to see him and that he'd been as kindly treated 'as though he had been a gentleman'. The officers, governor and doctor had spared nothing to save his life 12 12 20j

1913

Borough police Athletic Sports the most successful held [3.8]

1913 02 21

Chief constable annual report police 13 02 21 p8 CIP

1913 04 11

A pathetic tragedy occurred in Cambridge when a German teacher committed suicide after killing his two children by shooting them with a revolver. His wife, to whom he was devoted, had died in February. He was an advanced Spiritualist and had written to the coroner stating that by the time he received the letter he and his children would have rejoined their loved one. He was firmly of the belief that the step he was taking was merely a means of reuniting the family. 13 04 11 p9 CIP [2.7]

1913 05 23

Two fires attributed to suffragettes occurred in the small hours of Saturday morning in the newly-completed houses in Storey's Way. One was almost completely destroyed but the other, being erected for the Balfour Professor of Genetics, was extinguished before much damage was done. In it were found clues which led to the arrest of a Norwich school teacher. One was a gold watch and the other blood stains on the broken glass of window. The suspect had a cut on her finger. Policeman arrests his niece 13 05 23 p7 & 8 CIP

1913 07 04

Prisoner dies in County Gaol - 13 07 04 p9 CIP

1913 08 04

Ratepayers Association question time spent on police band [3.2]

1913 10 17

At the Assizes the top gallery was filled with women when a suffragette was accused of setting fire to a house in Storey's Way. She denied having started the blaze but had been at the site and dropped her watch. It was identified by her uncle, a Norwich policeman. Pink flannelette smelling strongly of paraffin had been wound round a ladder and set alight. Her coat smelled of paraffin. She asked the jury: "Do I look like a person who would go about with flannelette and cans of petrol and set fire to houses". She was convicted. 13 10 17 p8 [346.1.9]

1913 11 07

Frederick Seekings, a Brampton man was hanged in Cambridge Gaol for the murder of his wife. Mr T.W. Pierpoint was the executioner and the hanging was expeditiously carried out, death being instantaneous. Very little interest in the execution was shown by the public. There was but a mere handful of people outside the Shire Hall, chiefly composed of errand boys and youths. The black flag was not hoisted nor was the prison bell tolled, and there was nothing whatever to indicate that anything unusual was taking place. 13 11 07 p08 CIP [346.1.10,2.8]

1914 07 17

Women constables were needed in Cambridge to look after the girls. It would be a most valuable innovation if they had one or two women to go about at night and influence the young girls about in the streets and take them home. There was a need of them in public parks and open spaces. Their work would be entirely in connection with women, girls and young children, Miss Cochrane said. But no other Guardians agreed. 14 07 17 p8

1914 09 11

Owing to smaller number of women prisoners the female side of Cambridge gaol is to stay closed [3.9]

1914 11

Large number special constables sworn in [3.11]

1915 10 15

Chas Stretten retires after 27 years Chief Constable Cambs 15 10 15 p6; Chief Constable, Stretten resignation; details of his service 15 10 22 p5, Chief Constable of Cambs' duties to be taken by Chief Constable of Hunts – criticism 15 10 29 p7 – CIP

1915 11 05

Special constables sworn in for emergencies – list of names 15 11 05 p6

1916 02 09

One of the most astonishing results of the war is the effect it has, had on crime. This matter has been commented upon at every Assize and Quarter Sessions for the last twelve months or so. The calendars have been so light as to cause astonishment. Serious crime seems almost to have come to an end, and the presentation to the Chairmen of Quarter Sessions of white gloves as evidence of there being no prisoners for trial has become quite a common occurrence. As a consequence of this change in our normal conditions, some of His Majesty's prisons have hardly any prisoners, in them, and as a wartime economy, it is proposed to close some of them for the time being. Cambridge is to be added to the number closed during the period of the war. It is a remarkable proposition, although we should like to think that we could get along without a prison in our midst 16 02 09 CIPof

1916 06 28

Police Dogs: an account for the keep of dogs totalled £7 14s. "for the keep of dogs for three months." Certain members of the police force were paid so much per week for keeping certain police dogs. He believed there were four dogs and they were kept by the policemen living in outlying parts of the town. They were Airedales, and came from Major Richardson. The dogs were used for police purposes at night. The police constables who had care of them reported that the dogs were extremely useful. They were only used in the outlying parts of the town, and gave warning to the police if anyone was skulking behind hedges, etc. They were not in any way pets, but trained dogs, which enabled a smaller force of police to do the work 16 06 28 CIPof

1916 10 12

A presentation was made to Mr. C. J. D. Stretten, M.C.V.O in recognition of his long service as Chief Constable of the County, which post Mr. Stretten resigned nearly three months ago. 16 10 12 CIPof

1917 10

Police wages raised to 10/- (50p) a week [1.17]

1918 05 04

The Watch Committee had just decided to appoint two police-women to combat girls ogling soldiers. Immorality was rife in the town. It was not only the young girls who were the offenders, it was also the older married women whose husbands were very often on active service. 18 05 08 CIPof

1919 04 02

New County "Chief" Few appointments have met with more general approval than the promotion of Mr. William Varney Webb to the office of Chief Constable of the County of Cambridge. It is a promotion richly and thoroughly deserved, and is but fitting recognition of the services of an officer who has conscientiously and with great ability discharged his duties to the general advantage of the whole County. Beside which, his attainment to the highest Police rank in the County must be an incentive to the most humble member of the Force. Mr. Webb, who celebrated his 50th birthday a

fortnight ago, joined the Cambridgeshire Constabulary nearly a quarter of a century ago, and he has risen to his present position solely by his own energy and ability 19 04 02 CIPof

1919 07 23

Chief Constable Resigns. Mr Charles Edward Holland, Chief Constable of the Borough of Cambridge since 1894, has placed his resignation in the hands of the Watch Committee of the Borough of Cambridge, to take effect from September 29. Mr Holland has been away for some time on account of ill-health, but was in Cambridge last week to make the necessary police arrangements for the Peace Celebrations. 19 07 23 CIPof – profile – 19 07 23k

1919 08 27

Charles Stretton, former Chief Constable – reviews development of police – obituary – 19 08 27b

1919 10 08

Presentation to C.E. Holland, Cambridge chief constable retires; the strain of war – 19 10 08f

1919 10 22

New Chief Constable. At a special meeting of the Borough Watch Committee, held on Monday the question of the appointment of a Chief Constable in succession to Mr. C. E. Holland, who retired at the end of last month, was considered. The committee further interviewed the two final candidates, Supt. A. Hargreaves, who is at present carrying out the duties of Chief-Constable at Cambridge, and Supt. John Pearson, of the Wallesey County Borough Constabulary. By a majority, the committee decided to appoint Supt. Pearson 19 10 22 CIPof – 19 10 22c

1919 10 22

Frank Fyson on trial for attempted murder of his wife and attempted suicide Christ's Pieces; he from Warboys and had toured with the VC Cockerel – 19 10 22e

1919 10 29

Munitions Ministry robbed. Wholesale thefts of Government property were described at the Shire Hall, Cambridge, on Saturday morning, when four prisoners were charged with stealing bedding, bedsteads, and various other articles the property of the Ministry of Munitions. In the corridors outside the County Divisional Police Court were heaps of blankets, sheets, pillows, bed ticks and iron bedsteads, and inside the court was another miscellaneous collection of articles, which were exhibits in the case. The bulk of the property was stolen from the Coprolite Works at Trumpington, but a number of the articles had been removed from the munitions works at Gretna Green, and conveyed by the prisoners to Trumpington. The thefts were admitted and three of the prisoners were sent to gaol. The fourth offender—a lad of 15—was bound over. 19 10 29 CIPof, Detailed trial – 19 10 29a

## **1920**

1920 03 24

Detective Lazarus Marks reminiscences – 45 years a tec, major article – Ch 20 03 24a

1920 07 07

Lazarus Marsh presentation, tribute – Ch 20 07 07e

1920 07 22

Police roll of honour – 30 members joined Colours during the war – list - CDN 20 07 22

1920 09 01

First five lady JPs appointed [2.9]

1920 10 19

Cambridge fire brigade should be under control of police and worked by permanent staff consisting of one sergeant and five constables, a reduction of one on the present permanent staff. Ten other police could act as auxiliary firemen, being paid for attending fires, ambulance calls etc. - CDN 20 10 19  
Fire service to be handed over to the police - CDN 20 10 22

1920 11 12

Armistice 'Rag', chariot of flame on Market Hill, siege of Newnham College, burst through gates where for half hour of bliss ... few odd battalions of infuriated Dons and hysterical Newnhamites, police charge - CDN 20 11 12

1921 01 26

Volunteer Firemen's last church parade – photo – 12 01 12b; police take control – 12 01 26a [3.4]

1921 07

King Street murder: Alice Lawn murdered. King Street murder funeral – 21 08 03c; Reports & trial – 21 08 03d,e 21 08 10a, b, e 21 08 24b,c,d 21 09 07c 21 09 14a,b 21 09 21a,b ; 21 10 19a,b,c; 21 10 19j' not guilty – 21 10 26c. Photos – 21 08 03b, 21 08 17d , 21 10 19f, 21 10 26a. Suspect in court – 21 08 24a, 21 09 21d

1922 02 11

Special Constables thanked for their work during War; provide motor ambulance for use of townspeople [2.19,1.22,2.8]

1922 03 27

The Borough Chief Constable's annual report of the Cambridge police establishment for 1921 has now been issued. The strength of the force during the last year was 84. The total number of indictable offences was 151. Ten persons were committed for trial. There are 40 members of the Special Constabulary full equipped with uniform, 90 to whom caps, badges, truncheons and whistles have been issued, and 80 to whom no equipment has been issued who have expressed their willingness to serve in an emergency. 22 03 27

1922 04 29

At the Grand Council of the Red Cross Society and St John Ambulance Association Mrs Hartree raised the question of the police ambulance, and said she understood that the police ambulance was to be kept in the town, and that the Red Cross Ambulance should be used for long distances. However it was seen that the Police ambulance had gone on long distances - Ipswich and Norwich. Mrs Pryor said she knew the ambulance had been used extensively at the Evelyn Nursing Home. The Chief Constable said that the objection to the Red Cross Ambulance was that it was not heated, but they had very quietly informed him that it was heated and the ambulance had been much improved lately 22 04 29

1923

Miss Annie Carnegie-Brown has died at the age of 90. She was Cambridge's first policewoman in 1923 at a salary of £3 a week. Slightly built, she was stabbed with a carving knife while arresting a well-built Ely woman. A doctor clipped her wound and she returned to duty next day. During the war, as a fluent German speaker, she was involved in the interrogation of spies and retired as a sergeant in 1947. Until the end she was a clear-thinking determined old lady who enjoyed fishing but never talked about the past 86 09 28

1923 10 18

Chesterton Road police station bought by council for £350 at auction Ch 18 10 23 p10

1923 11 06

Cambridge would be disappointed indeed if the Fifth of November failed to produce a rag of some sort. Last night's effort was, to say the least of it, feeble and was sustained for the most part by such

residents of the town as come out for excitement on such occasions, and a handful of very callow freshmen. Fireworks there were in plenty, but the old spirit was lacking. Had it not been for the mounted police and the proctors, the market square would have been its usual desolate self soon after 9.30 pm. It was noticeable that as soon as the mounted police left the crowd decreased by 50 per cent  
c23 11 06

1923 11 10

A merry and light-hearted party of undergraduates, despite police vigilance, succeeded in obtaining their hearts desire - they manage to light a fire on market Hill. Certain of the undergraduate community attracted the attention of some constables to a gas lamp on the one corner of the square. They demonstrated a desire to figure on the charge sheet of the police court by the charmingly simple process of putting out the light. The police "fell for it" and kept watch on that particular part of the market place. Meanwhile another body of the faithful rushed on to the Market Hill with a rowing eight filled with petrol and had it alight before people realised what was towards 23 11 10

1923 12 22

During the past 28 years a police-court missionary has been engaged in the Cambridge courts. It has for its main object the reformation of all, irrespective of creed, who pass through the police courts. No matter what the offence or how often repeated, none are too young to be helped, no criminal too hardened. Almost every case undertaken means some expenditure. It costs money to provide boots, clothing, travel expenses and entrance fees to homes and institutions. This is a period of numerous charitable appeals but we doubt if any object is more worthy of support and more productive of lasting good 23 12 22

1924 12 23

The Policeman in his time plays many parts, but it is doubtful if he ever plays such a delightful part as members of the Cambridge Force did when the distribution of gifts to the poor and needy took place. PC Hagger acted as butcher. Aproned in the approved style and armed with a steel and murderous knives, he chopped and boned joints of meat with a happy smile. Sergt Sharman wrapped up good things, struggling with newspaper and grease-proof paper and slippery meat. Policewomen Jude & Carnegie Brown dealt with the milk and looked after the children. Every recipient met with a cheery wish for a Happy Christmas and all took their gifts with a smile and profuse thanks 24 12 23

1923 12 24

To the majority of Cambridge people the policeman is a man in blue uniform who apprehends "undergraduates" who ride motor cycles with noisy "silencers". Some 300 of the town's most needy inhabitants however, saw "Robert" in the guise of a cheery soul on the occasion of the distribution of gifts from the proceeds of the Borough police poor and needy funds. Some carried sacks of potatoes on their shoulders, others struggled with sheets of paper in frenzied efforts to wrap meat into neat and really tidy looking parcels. P.C. Hagger who officiated as executioner in the meat department looked thoroughly impressive as with a sharp knife and large chopper he dealt with the meat in a way that would have done credit to the most finished meat purveyor 23 12 24

1925 03

Expenditure of £9,600 on police & fire station approved [1.26]

1925 02 14

Celebrating the Lent Races gave gownsmen the traditional excuse to break the bonds of conventional conduct and create some hectic scenes on Saturday night. From the viewpoint of roughness the 'rag' proved to be one of the worst during recent years, and the endeavours of the police to impose limitations on some of the more disorderly acts were not received with the good-natured co-operation which usually characterises such outbreaks. Besides having their helmet knocked off, several constables received nasty kicks about the legs and one was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital with injuries to the head c.25 02 14

1927 01 12

The Chief Constable, Mr R.J. Pearson said that when he came to Cambridge there used to be only one or two policemen on point duty, whereas now there were seven or eight. The force had not been increased so one had to scheme accordingly. During the past year nearly 2,000 bicycles were found in the streets; up to Thursday morning there were 300 at the Police Station but 70 had been claimed that day. One seldom saw a drunken man in the streets and returns showed they were one of the best towns from this point of view. 27 01 12

1928 03 23

Cambridge councillors debated the deplorable behaviour of certain members of the University. In the places of entertainment bad language was frequent and disorderly acts occurred in the streets. At the present time special constables were composed entirely of tradesmen and at certain times of the year the year the Chief Constable should try to enrol University fellows, tutors and dons. The proposal was rejected. c28 03 24

1928 11 20

Members of the Cambridge public who have been mystified by the appearance of wooden huts in various places will be interested to learn they are police telephone boxes. They will be small sub-police stations. Each will contain a telephone in a cupboard which the public can use to get in touch with the Central Police Station, but not for general calls. The box itself will only be accessible to the police. Thirteen are to be erected 28 11 20

1929 01 08

The Chief Constable said that one of the cars now in use was a danger to the life of the Deputy Chief Constable; it had been used every day for the past ten years, so it had done extraordinarily well, but was now positively dangerous to go about in. The cost would be about £150. The question of payment arose and Mr Taylor objected to "this wretched system which is going on all over America of paying by instalments". It was agreed a new car be purchased and paid for now and a sub-committee was appointed to make the purchase. 29 01 08

1930 01 20

Demolition work has begun on the Chesterton Sub-Police station, Mitcham's Corner. At one time the office of the old Chesterton Urban District Council it became a police station on the amalgamation of Chesterton with the borough. Corner improvements have made its removal desirable. Workmen are hurrying in and out and already it is windowless and completely barren internally. It will be replaced by a police-box. The familiar fire standards are also doomed to disappear; five wall boxes have been erected which will be in operation as soon as the telephones are installed. The change has been made because the public dislikes the breaking of glass in the older standards and prefer to use a telephone case of emergency 30 01 20 [3.5, 3.10]

1930 06 03

A terrible shooting affair occurred at King's College this afternoon. An undergraduate shot a Cambridge Detective-Sergeant twice with an automatic, then shot his tutor through the heart and himself in the head. The tutor died instantly, the undergraduate is not expected to live but the policeman is likely to make a normal recovery. The cause of the trouble is at present a mystery 30 06 03a [2.4]

1930 06 04

The third of the men in the King's College shooting sensation, Det-Sergt Willis, has died from the effects of his wounds. The undergraduate assailant died yesterday from a bullet wound in the head whilst the tutor was killed instantly from a bullet through his heart. The undergraduate was heavily in debt and went away from Cambridge nine days ago on a motor-cycle obtained on credit. He was being interviewed by the policeman when the tragedy occurred 30 06 04

1930 06 04

A London lady has thrown fresh light on the movement of the undergraduates involved in the double shooting at King's College. They had knocked on her door at three in the morning; their clothes were torn and dishevelled and they said they were down and out, having been walking about on the Thames Embankment. They told her they were in trouble at Cambridge, but only through disposing of some property that did not belong to them. Both had pistols and said they would end things then rather than face fresh trouble, but she had dissuaded them. 30 06 04

1930 06 04

The Cambridge Chief Constable paid tribute to Det-Sergt Francis Willis who was shot by a Cambridge undergraduate. He was born in Haverhill and joined the Cambridge force in 1920 serving as a uniformed and a cycle patrol constable until appointed a detective. He had commendations for his plucky action in stopping runaway horses and was the officer concerned in the recent 'Mr H' blackmail case. He had the making of a really great policeman and his death was a great shock. 30 06 04

1930 06 04

Memories of Detective Ives who was with Willis – 55 08 09

1930 06 06

Further revelations of the escapades of the undergraduate involved in the King's College shooting have caused University authorities to make searching inquiries into the habits of undergraduates. The lad had surrounded himself with an atmosphere of false romance; he paid frequent visits to the Bell Hotel at Mildenhall. The landlord's daughter described him as 'a very nice boy, but terribly eccentric'. He always came in second-hand cars, but never in the same car twice, and spent time playing the gramophone. He always left in time to get back to college before the gates closed 30 06 06b

1930 12 05

Under the Road Traffic Act Cambridgeshire has been allotted one motor car and three motor cycles to deal with the enormous growth of motor traffic. Such a force should be recruited from men best suited for the job but there is a limit to the number of tasks they can perform. This is another example of the Government forcing local authorities to make the new law work somehow. 30 12 06d

1931 01 16

A memorial tablet was unveiled at Cambridge Police Station to the late Det-Serg Francis Willis, who lost his life in the King's College shooting tragedy. The tablet, carried out in oak and bearing the Borough arms has been placed on the wall by the side of the Roll of Honour, at the foot of the staircase. The public had made a generous response to an appeal for the benefit of his widow and £625 had been raised with another £208 from police federations across the country. 31 01 16e

1931 01 23

Cambridge motorists were on their best behaviour when the Borough Police mobile squad went out for their first time. P.C.s Edwards and Ward are the permanent members of the squad, which is equipped with a fast motor cycle combination. The setting up of the squad has made several changes necessary. The new warrant office is P.C. Ives of the detective department and P.C. Brooks is Coroner's Officer. 31 01 23a

1931 02 20

William Carter joined the Cambridge Borough Police Force in 1867 and retired as Inspector in 1894. He had a vivid memory of the opening of the Corn Exchange in 1870 when undergraduates caused a disturbance and six were arrested. At their trial a mob gathered and dashed to King Street, the residence of the Mayor, John Death. But, headed by Carter, the police got there first and shut the gates. Missiles of all kinds were thrown and the fighting continued for some hours. Apart from a battered and torn helmet, Mr Carter was not hurt. 31 02 20j

1931 02 27

Over 100 attended a funeral service for a young Freshman whose mysterious death has caused such a sensation throughout the country. Press and public were excluded but a crowd gathered and police had some difficulty in controlling the traffic. He had been found lying dead on the floor of his room, gagged and bound in an elaborate manner with numerous handkerchiefs, a length of puttee, and a wire flex. Members of the Pentacle Club, the University Magicians' Society have been interrogated & Sir Bernard Spilsbury, the famous Home Office pathologist has been called in. 31 02 27d-g-h. Sidney Sussex student death verdict 31 03 06f -h

1932 02 02

A London sales manager was charged with demanding £500 by menaces from a Cambridge resident referred to in court as 'Mr Z'. After being told that he was going to be 'beaten up' by a gang of bookmakers Mr Z paid the man £500 in the presence of two hidden police officers. He told the court he was still going in fear of personal violence. The prosecutor remarked "It looks like an American gangster film" 32 02 20a & b

1932 05 28

Sensational disclosures are expected in connection with a fivefold shooting tragedy in Hills Road. While the shooting was taking place a girl operator in the telephone exchange was listening to it, powerless to help. The dead woman was in the act of putting through a telephone call. Before the bullet entered her head she had taken off the receiver which was found hanging on its wire when the police entered the house. 32 05 28 b & c, 30, 31, 32 05 31a, b, 32 06 01 & b

1933 03 27

Police Court Mission work – 33 03 27

1933 09 12

Cambridge gaol – stories of 'wheel', cat & black hole – 33 09 12

1934 03 05

A Cambridge police constable was injured during the 'rag' which followed the inter-college rugby cup final between Clare and St Catharine's. At Burrell's Walk undergraduates used wooden palisades to make a bonfire. The fire engine was called out but was surrounded by a crowd of students some of whom pulled the hose off the drum. Others clambered on to the engine and took the front and side lamps off. The fire was put out by college porters. In Queen's Road the police were forced to defend themselves. Truncheons were used to prevent their helmets being snatched off. There was some hard fighting. A number of street lamps were broken and a window was smashed in King's Parade. Two undergraduates were arrested, charged with assaulting the police 34 03 05

1934 04 20

Two cars supplied in place of four motorcycles which worn out [1.4]

1934 07 23

Police refused entrance to Pembroke college – 34 07 23

1935 08 09

County police oppose appointment of women police constables - would cost £150-£200 pa & represent an inadequate return for the money; they will borrow one from Borough when needed [1.14]

1936 04 04

The Policewoman's Review includes an article in praise of policewomen by Cambridge Councillor Mrs Rackham. The main obstacles to an increase in their numbers are prejudice against women police constables and ignorance of the work they perform. 36 04 04

1936 04 04

Cambridge Police Force was established about March 1836 when it comprised a superintendent, two inspectors, eight sergeants and 24 constables. Now it consists of the Chief Constable, a Chief Inspector, three Inspectors, eight sergeants, 79 constables, two policewomen and the Fire Brigade which is made up of a sergeant and six men. Crime was much the same then as now: the 1837 report shows gas lamps were extinguished unlawfully and there was even a case of furious driving, the vehicle being a gig. 36 04 04

1937 02 02

The inadequate accommodation at the Fire and Police Station has now become serious. The proposed changes involve the complete demolition of the Chief Constable's house, garages, policewomen's office and the Remand Home in Downing Lane. There will be a basement for the storage of 320 bicycles and provision for eight motor vehicles together with a workshop with pit for repairs, petrol pumps etc on the ground floor. A flat for the sergeant in charge of the fire brigade will be needed together with a mess room and larder for 12 men, photograph room and offices for the chief constable, coroner and detectives. Above would be ten bedrooms for 12 single men with two bathrooms and various stores. 37 02 02b

1937 02 04

Proposed alterations to the police and fire station were opposed by councillors as it meant compulsory purchase of property belonging to St Andrews Street Baptist Church. The fire station could be moved to Maid's Causeway allowing the police space for the next 50 years. But there did need to be accommodation for constables – recently when a large number of additional men were required for emergency service the Chief Constable had to send motor ambulances and motor patrol vans to whip them up. 37 02 04a & b

1937 04 02

A number of Cambridge police officers have received promotion. Supt. Percy Sharman is in the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of service, Inspector S.J. Double, Serg W. Ainsworth, Det-Sergt A.E. Robinson, Sergts O. Cornwell, J.Kester, W. Edwards – 37 04 20a

1937 05 17

A police cordon was thrown round the Regal Cinema in the early hours of Sunday morning after PC Parker saw a man's head out of a bottom floor window. Two men ran away; one was brought down with a rugby tackle by a passing cyclist, Arthur Wright, another punched Inspector Witham with a knuckleduster. One was alleged to have packets of gelignite in his possession, another was found with fuse detonators. Later Scotland Yard's Flying Squad arrested a fifth man. 37 05 17a

1937 12 16

Cambridge police station is 'more decorative than useful', Inspectors report. The very inadequate accommodation is unsuitable for present day police methods. The building is out of date. The number of records that have to be kept has changed completely and there is no means of storing them. There is no proper place for interviewing prisoners, nowhere for officers to take their food and no provision for housing firemen or single policemen. To ensure communication between police and fire headquarters, they should be on the same spot and under the same chief. Butt Green was unsuitable as it was common ground so the cheapest and best place for a new station is at Parkside. 37 12 16

1938 03 21

A witness at Cambridge Police Court took the Confucianist oath by smashing a saucer in the witness-box. Then the clerk said: "You shall tell the truth, and the whole truth – the saucer is broken, and if you do not tell the whole truth your soul will be broken like the saucer". Mr Fan Hung testified that he was a research student at Fitzwilliam Hall and that money had been taken from his wallet in his lodgings. A fellow-lodger admitted the theft and was bound over. 38 03 21

1938 04 09

The Inspector of Constabulary had stressed the necessity of creating a detective department so that up-to-date methods could be used for the investigation of crime, taking of photographs and keeping of records. But there were no available constables so two more should be appointed. Sergeants should have an increased allowance for the use of their own motor vehicles and bicycles. All members of the force, except one, are qualified to render first aid and the majority can swim, Cambs Chief Constable reported. 38 04 09a & b

1938 07 28

Plans for a new police and fire station on Parkside between Warkworth Terrace and East Road came before an Inspector. It was a central site with good access for engine and ambulances and suitable for future requirements. It comprised five houses with a pork pie factory behind. But owners, Peterhouse, did not want to sell. They were concerned about noise at night and some undesirable 'guests' at the police station reducing the value of adjacent property. 38 07 28

1938 09 05

Ex-Inspector Lazarus March collapsed while on his way to morning at St Paul's church. Born in 1854 at West Wrating, he came to Cambridge on joining the Borough Police Force in 1874. In April 1892 he was appointed detective-constable and, six years later, was promoted detective-sergeant. Then in April 1920 he obtained the rank of inspector, retiring a few weeks later when he received a public presentation from many friends who appreciated his work. He had lived in Covent Garden for about 50 years. 38 09 05b

1938 09 07

New police houses, garages and recreation room at Shire Hall – 38 09 07 [3.4]

1938 10 07

H.M. Inspector of Police had urged the creation of a detective department so that up-to-date methods could be used in the investigation of crime. But this would involve an increase in the establishment and is not justified at present. The two officers who have received training in detective work will be stationed in the least-busy sub-sections and be ready to help if their skills were needed. Other officers could also be trained, the Police Committee decided. 38 10 07d

1938 12 23

Cambridge Police Poor and Needy Fund ensures many needy families can enjoy a good Christmas dinner and plenty of coal. A large queue formed in Downing Place, young and old, they all carried baskets, jugs and sacks – even pillow slips. A huge pile of potatoes was in one corner and milk was handed out from churns together with butter, tea and cartons of peas. The Police Santa Claus No.1 (the Chief Constable) chatted with people as they came in. Then came a Distribution Day lunch of roast beef and Christmas pudding in the police station. 38 12 23

1939 07 07

The office of parish constable has been abolished in Cambridgeshire. They were no longer necessary for the preservation of the peace or the discharge of public business. They cost about £250 a year and every other county had abolished them. The county had 956 special constables and an additional 168 members of the Observer Corps. 39 07 07

1939 07 20

PC Brookes joined the force in January 1913 and for the first seven years was engaged mainly in plain clothes work with special reference to the campaign against the white slave trade. He also investigated the burning down of a house in Storey's Way when Suffragette troubles were at their height. Afterwards he spent time on cycle patrol, inspector of diseased animals and hackney carriages. Then he became coroner's officer and was engaged in three major tragedies – the King's College shooting affair, the five-fold shooting tragedy in Hinton Avenue and the death of a Sidney Sussex undergraduate. 39 07 20

## 1940

1941 05 19

Cambridgeshire Chief Constable W. Winter resignation due health – 41 05 19

1941 06 21

W.H. Edwards appointed Chief Constable Cambridgeshire in succession W. Winter – 41 06 21a

1941 06 27

New County Chief Constable. Mr. W. H. Edwards, Supt. of the Taunton Division, was appointed Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, in succession to Mr. W. Winter. Mr. Edwards is 40 years of age. The appointment was made by the committee from a short list of three candidates submitted after the joint sub-committee had interviewed eight of the 22 applicants for the post. Two of the three final nominations were of men aged 33 and 29, both graduates of the Metropolitan Police College. Among the 22 applicants were five Chief Constables from other boroughs. Mr. Edwards' record showed that he joined the Somerset Constabulary in 1920, being appointed a sergeant in 1933 and ainspector in 1939. He has been superintendent of the Taunton Division since August last year. 41 06 27 CIPof

1941 12 19

P.c.'s Heroism. "Although warned of the danger of unexploded bombs, P.c. Haynes persisted in going to the aircraft, where he did splendid rescue work, which resulted in the saving of valuable lives." These words are contained in a commendation by the Royal Air Force of P.c. Albert Haynes, of the Cambridge Division, for gallant conduct and exemplary behaviour when a British aircraft crashed and caught fire. His heroism was reported by the County Chief Constable (Mr. W. H. Edwards) at Saturday's meeting of the Standing Joint Committee, and it was added that the commendation had been promulgated to all members of the Force and "recorded in the constable's personal record. The Chairman (Mr. W. C. Jackson) said the highest commendation was due to P.c. Haynes for his courageous attitude in saving the lives of several airmen 41 12 19 CIPof

1943 02 02

W.E.B. Vail, special constable, 70 – 43 02 20

1943 12 17

Chief Constable says goodbye. The very great regret of Cambridge Borough Council at the retirement of the Chief Constable (Mr. R. J. Pearson) was expressed at yesterday's meeting by the Mayor (Ald W. L. Briggs). "We all regret," he said "that the time has come when we must part with Mr. Pearson. I think the resolution of the Watch Committee will be accepted by the whole of the council. I was a magistrate a year before Mr. Pearson was appointed, and I should like to bear testimony to his services." Twenty-five years ago, said the Mayor, the police force was in a very different position. It had now been humanised - Mr. Pearson in reply, said he had served under 26 mayors, "My retirement will be a very great wrench. All my life I had been a policeman, I was born in a police building, and I had gone all through the ranks. After service of 41½ years, I feel I ought to give way to a younger man 43 12 17 CIPof 43 12 03, 43 12 16

1944 01 28

New Chief Constable. Mr. B. N. Bebbington, 33-year-old sub-divisional inspector of the Metropolitan Police, is to be the new Chief Constable of Cambridge in succession to Mr. R. J. Pearson Mr. Bebbington joined the Metropolitan Police in 1932, and after serving three years as a constable, was sent to the Metropolitan Police College at Hendon. He had served in different divisions, and had been appointed a sub-divisional Inspector at Tower Bridge 44 01 28 CIPof – photo – 44 02 02

1945 02 11

Police cars now have short wave radios [1.2]

1945 07 16

Special constables stand down – photo – CDN 1945 07 16

1945 11 16

Chief Constable injured and Commandant of 'Specials' killed in collision with armoured car at Melbourn – CDN 1945 11 16; W.H. Edwards dies – CDN 1945 11 26; funeral – CDN 1945 11 30a, inquest – CDN 1945 12 17, CDN 1945 12 18

1945 12 11

Senior police officers A.E. Lilley and Inspector Jacob retire, memories of CID work. King St murder and Sinn Fein arrest – CDN 1945 12 11

1946

Retain police powers under Police Act [2.14]

1947 06 18

On Saturday, after a quarter of a century of service to the public Sergt Policewoman Carnegie Brown, one of the pioneers of women police, goes into retirement and the Cambridge Force loses its senior woman member and the Cambridge public a well-known figure. The history of women police has evolved during her lifetime. One of the earliest policewomen in the country, starting at a time when women police were not generally recognised by local authorities, Miss Brown has done much to override any prejudice that might have been held at the time and now has the satisfaction of knowing that women police are considered an essential part of the police service. In the early days women police did only welfare work, such as helping patch up matrimonial difficulties. Today they handle all matters connected with women and children who are involved in any way with the police 47 06 18

1948

Fire & ambulance services previously undertaken by Borough police taken over by County Council [3.6]

1948 05 01

The Chief Constable's report for 1947 discusses the difficulty of getting recruits. He says: "A female civilian engaged in a clerical capacity in Local Government is paid 3s 1½ per hour at the age of 32 whereas a married man joining the police will at 32 be receiving 2s 9½d per hour, and this figure includes his rent and boot allowance. In effect a married police constable may be working alongside an unmarried female typist in the Headquarters, doing a more responsible job for 4d an hour less. If the civilian clerk was a man he would receive 1s 1½ d an hour more than the police constable 48 05 01

1948 11 06

Cambridge's annual Guy Fawke's battle was waged in the market square and surrounding streets. Five undergraduates were amongst those who were arrested and placed in the Guildhall cells until being bailed. There were three charges of assaulting the police. Though a strong warning had been given by the university authorities there was considerable rowdiness. RAF men from nearby airfields and US service personnel were banned from Cambridge for the night. Ten people were taken to Addenbrooke's hospital having received slight injuries or fainted in the large crowds c48 11 06

1948 11 24

An interesting feature of the Cambridge Accident Prevention Council exhibition is the relaying to the Guildhall of a commentary of the conduct of road users given from a police patrol car touring the town. Members of the public are invited to accompany the commentator in the patrol car. Though police radio is not yet in use in Cambridge special arrangements have been made to fit apparatus which will also be used when the general system comes into operation 48 11 24

1949 03 14

Police & low pay - less than £5 a week [1.20]

1949 04 18

A police radio network covering Cambridgeshire, the Isle of Ely, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough has come into operation. Now within a few minutes of any incident being reported the nearest cruising police cars can be speeding to the spot. Radio will help greatly in car theft cases, enabling descriptions of missing vehicles to be circulated in a few seconds over a wide area. The Fire Brigade is also in the scheme. The master station through which the whole scheme is controlled is situated at County Police Headquarters, Castle Hill, Cambridge. 49 04 18

1949 11 07

The quietest Guy Fawkes night “rag” long-service Cambridge police officers can remember passed off without even a street lamp being extinguished – another “within living memory” record. A crowd gathered on the Market Square by 7pm and fireworks were thrown. A police car which arrived on the scene radioed for reinforcements. These shepherded the crowd off the square. After that police posted at the entrances to the square prevented people entering the area. Early in the evening a few rotten eggs were thrown, and a smoke bomb exploded in the Sidney Street area. These incidents, and the intermittent throwing of fireworks, constituted about the only “excitement” of the evening, though there was an occasion when a “bulldog” pursued a man at full speed in front of the Guildhall 49 11 07

1951 01 09

When the children of the Morley Memorial School returned after the Christmas holidays, they found a white-coated civilian on duty to see them safely across the road. He is Cambridge’s first traffic warden appointed in the interests of child safety and to help relieve the police. The idea of civilian traffic wardens has been tried successfully in other towns. The scheme has the approval of the police who give the wardens a course of instruction in their duties.

1951 02 21

Mrs Jean P. Silver has the distinction of being the first woman to be accepted as a special constable for Cambridge. She will be issued with a uniform and receive a course of instruction in police work generally. Her work will consist of help to regular policewomen, at office work, enquiries, matters affecting women and girls, and patrol duties. The Cambridge police force requires a limited number of women special constables. They must be over the age of 30, and physically fit 51 02 21

1952 12 04

Police pillar box opens - messages passed to cars by radio [2.7]

1953 03 16

The Mayor (Ald S.T. Bull) formally opened the first two police houses to be erected in Cambridge. He said that some new recruits come from other parts of the county and they, like most human beings, marry and have families. There are three police houses in the area but they have no indoor sanitation. The new houses are easy to run, with light and pleasant room. There are 16 police houses being built and they will be sited at Walpole Road, Queen Edith’s Way, Fulbourn Road and Coleridge Road. 53 03 16

1954 05 04

Cambridgeshire Police have been experimenting with a radio equipped motor cycle. The wireless equipment supplied by Pye Telecom gives the same facilities as that fitted to police cars. A patrolling motor cycle officer hears his call on the set; pulls up and then can receive his message through a loudspeaker, or alternatively through the hand microphone he uses for his own transmission. The range of the radio is sufficient to cover any part of the county. If adopted it would enable motor cycles to be used for many duties which at present require radio cars 54 05 04

1954 11 06

Police helmets will be treasured possession in the homes of undergraduates and Cambridge ‘Teddy-Boys’ who contributed to the Guy Fawkes Night high jinks. One police constable, helmet-less, went

back to base for another. But in double-quick time this went too! Frequent clashes broke out between police and revellers. In Market Square a crowd of more than 5,000 screamed, shouted, pushed and laughed but it was 'good natured fooling'. "Teddy" girls screamed at each bang, unsuspecting undergraduates were pounced on by Proctors and 'Bulldogs' and there were boos and hisses each time an untidy-looking urchin was led away, and each time the urchin would protest his innocence of throwing any fireworks.

1955 07 26

Cambridge police may use 'Vespa' motorcycles to combat the shortage of officers and reduce overtime. They are currently under-strength but by using police on Vespas on the outskirts of the city could increase mobility at a reduced cost. It would cost £1,440 to purchase eleven machines together with £300 for clothing and equipment and £600 for petrol but would enable a saving of £4,000 a year. 55 07 26

1955 09 15

Police Vespa picture – 55 09 15bb

1955 09 24

Police issued with motor scooters – cartoon – 55 09 24a

1956 10 12

To some he is an enemy, to others a music-hall joke but to the vast majority of the public the village constable is a familiar and reassuring figure – the man who knows what to do when things go wrong. He attracts little of the glamour usually given to the C.I.D. or the high-speed radio-controlled precision machinery of his fellow-officers, yet he remains the most important man in the police service. But although he is so often seen pedalling along a country lane, the public idea of his full duties is very scanty. 56 10 12a b c

1956 12 04

If you have seen a street fight and want to report it or are a motorist lost in Cambridge and want to know your way, it is simple. You go to the nearest Police Pillar, open the door and pick up the telephone inside. At once you are in touch with the information room at police headquarters. The Mayor made the first 'emergency' call from the Police Pillar in Drummer Street and within minutes a sleek black saloon containing two stalwart policemen drew up. 56 12 04

1958 03 01

Harry Newell has served as a special policeman since the time of the General Strike in 1926. He has been on call at any time of day or night, has attended parades and been liable to mobilisation in time of national emergency. Now, at 68 years of age, he thinks it time to hand in his uniform. He still works regularly in his cycle and car hire business 58 03 01

1959 04 18

120 children appeared city courts in 1958 - less than 5 in 1,000 guilty of serious crime; 1949 probation service made 87 enquiries for court, 1958 273 [6.4]

1959 09 17

Cambridge Police hold an identification parade about four times a year. They invite members of the public who happen to be passing the station to take part or draw people from nearby places of employment where the management have agreed to co-operate. They need people as similar as possible to the suspect. If he has a wooden leg then the parade is lined up with their legs covered by a blanket and all wear eye patches if the suspect has only one eye. 59 09 17

***1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date***

1960 07 01

For more than a year now, Cambridgeshire police patrol cars have been fitted with 35mm cameras mounted behind the windscreen. The photographs of road offenders in action have been used to obtain several convictions of careless drivers. Far more pictures are taken than actually used in prosecutions and constables are encouraged to use the cameras on every possible occasion. It also saves time waiting for a photographer to be sent out from Cambridge to record details of a road accident 60 07 01d

1960 07 18

A four day manhunt for 'Gipsy Jack' ended when he was found in a secret hideout inside his mother's hut in the gipsy encampment near Oakington where he had been since he shot and battered a woman in the corner of a cornfield. Superintendent John du Rose of Scotland Yard realised the old railway carriage was shorter inside than out and pulled away a chest of drawers from an old wooden partition. But 'Gipsy Jack' shot himself in the head with a shotgun before police could break in. 60 07 18a 60 07 14 60 07 18 60 07 18a

1961 01 20

When at full strength Cambridge City Police Force numbers 161, including six women officers. New constables spend their first three weeks on night duty as this is the best time to get to know the district without the confusion of traffic or pedestrians. They patrol on foot in the busier areas and on bicycles further from the centre. An observant policeman on his beat notices small details such as the man with the bulky overcoat, the ladder that has been moved or the obvious unfamiliarity of a driver or motor cyclist with his vehicle. The main task during the day is maintaining an even flow of traffic, sorting out jams and directing motorists into parking spaces. 61 01 20a & b & c

1961 03 22

The strong room at Barclay's Bank in Chesterton Road was blown open and £75,000 in notes stolen in the City's biggest bank robbery. The raiders piled stacks of office furniture and cushions to muffle the noise of the explosion which blew a hole three feet across in the strong room wall, then crawled through to help themselves to the money. Arrangements have been made to transfer the silver and copper coinage the thieves left behind. 61 03 22

1961 06 30

Cambridge Special Constabulary augments the understaffed police force in basic duties such as traffic control, first aid or patrolling a beat and are often on duty at May Races, Poppy Day, Guy Fawkes Night and elections. They are not forced to give their services but do what they can when they can. Their average age is 43 years and they come from all walks of life. One spent time in the navy, another joined because a child was murdered near his home. All enjoy the companionship, meeting the public and feeling they are doing something useful 61 06 30e

1961 10 31

Undergraduates banned from centre Guy Fawkes Day, follows last year's example to enable police to control danger of home-made fireworks [369.21.10]

1962 01 20

A former Grenadier guardsman and policeman has set up a personal bodyguard service in Cambridge. He and his staff will be available for bodyguarding 24 hours a day, providing a personal service as well as working for firms. The job does not necessarily mean guarding large sums of money: they also make the service available to people who live on their own and who need protection. For security reasons he can't say how many men he has on the staff or who they are. He himself is a former Isle of Ely policeman who won the military medal for bravery in the Italian campaign. 62 01 20

1962 11 06

Bonfire Night was very quiet this year. Police appeals for people to stay away from the city centre met with a good response and the streets were almost empty. Extensive use was made of radios and police

with walkie-talkie sets moved on any groups from street corners. A University ban on students entering the city centre during the five hours before midnight was equally effective. Major incidents were few and far between and the elaborate measures taken proved more than adequate on one of the quietest Guy Fawkes nights for many years 62 11 06

1963

F.Drayton Porter appointed Chief Constable of both City & County forces [3.8]

1963 02 11

Police install tv eye Drummer St [4.5]

1963 03 13

Police motor scooter fleet – photo – 63 03 13

1963 12 13

Police Bill envisages new force for city & county [4.1]

1964 02 10

With the words “V.Q.4 mobile”, a large car swings from the yard of Cambridge police station. But unlike television’s “Z-Cars” this V.Q. is inconspicuous. There are no flashing signs, bells or gongs and the two men inside are in civilian clothes. If you are walking the Cambridge streets in the early hours of the morning, the chances are they will pull up and ask what you are doing. Sometimes they spend so much time interviewing people they don’t have time to travel very much. The job may not be glamorous but it helps prevent crime 64 02 10a

1964 02 14

Identi-kit comes to Cambridge [4.2]

1964 11 27

Special constables celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary – history – 64 11 27a

1964 12 04

Frederick Drayton Porter, Cambridgeshire’s Chief Constable has 30 years’ experience and vivid memories of the 18 murder cases he has investigated in Nottinghamshire where there were 14,000 indictable offences last year. By contract in Cambridge there were 2,300 crimes, of which a large proportion concerned cycles. Traffic and parking is the major problem. Since the introduction of parking meters the movement of traffic is much better, but a policeman should be able to tell a motorist where to park, he says. 64 12 04

1965

City & County forces amalgamated with others to form Mid Anglia Constabulary [3.9]

1965 07 12

Traffic wardens on point duty for first time, relieve policemen – 65 07 12a, b

1966 02 22

Risk of drug-taking by students in college hostels and lodgings – teacher fined for house used for smoking Indian hemp; “beatnik parasites”, Clarendon St– 66 02 22a, b, 66 02 23b

1966 04 22

500 Cambridge youths, including undergraduates, smoke Indian hemp; police raid lodgings – 66 04 22; police doing all they can to cut out drugs – 66 04 23

1966 04 24

Police may set up Drugs squad as drugs menace first began to emerge on streets. “500 youths smoke hashish” says solicitor, police set up drugs squad, marijuana sold in city centre pub for 2/6; police raid Alley Club & seize 200 pills, proprietor prosecuted [4.8,4.9,6.8] [4.12]

1966 11 07

Police new HQ at Parkside, plans unveiled – 66 11 07

1967 01 24

Soon personal radios for all patrolling pcs making orange lights flashing on police beacons out of date [4.6]

1967 02 11

Synthetic LSD made in Chemistry Labs says letter in Granta [4.10,4.14,6.9]

1968

‘Red’ Rudi Dutschke, the German revolutionary who provided Cambridge undergraduates with a cause celebre which rocked the university. He slipped into Britain in 1968 for medical treatment for a bullet wound received during a demonstration in Berlin. He was offered a place at Clare Hall so that he could continue his studies here and did not take part in active politics. But when Home Secretary Reginald Maudling refused to allow him to stay dons protested and the Cambridge Students’ Union mounted its first-ever national march in London.

1968 03 09

Defence Secretary, Denis Healey, hissed by undergraduates after meeting at University Labour Club. Wild scenes as Healey leaves, “runs gauntlet of mob”, four arrested; police federation call for curb on student political demos; 68 03 09 # c.33 [369.1.24]

1968 04 01

Panda cars introduced on set beats which also have two resident pcs working on them & collator [4.7]

1968 10 28

Enoch Powell speaks secretly at Union as police thwart city demonstrations – 68 10 28a

1969 11 21

Four-man drug squad has been established two years [4.8]

## **1970**

1970

The foundation of the largest LSD ring the world has ever seen were laid in Cambridge in 1970, a court was told. Five men living in Cambridge at the time launched the operation that would end up supplying more than 90 per cent of Britain’s LSD and more than 50 per cent of the world’s total consumption of the drug, said the prosecutor at the start of the ‘Operation Julie’ trial. One man had ordered a tablet-making machine to be delivered to him at the University Chemistry Laboratory and delivered drugs to a house in Cambridge by simply dropping them through the letter box 78 02 27

1970 02 14

“Garden House riot”: police make truncheon charge against mob of undergraduates who surged forward pinning score constables against shattered plate-glass windows causing £2,276 damage Garden House Hotel. City demand punishment for rioters 1000 march to Greek rally, 300 admit to being at anti-Junta demonstration four guilty of riot, seven acquitted; six sent prison periods 5-18 months, two sent to borstal “GHR changed course of events; afterwards student violence died off, 11,280 at dinner, climax of Greek Week promoting holidays under Right-Wing military dictatorship; Police invoked Riot Act, not used for years. Judge Melford Stevenson said it most complete example

of intelligent young people getting involved in complete bloody nonsense - 70 02 14, 14a, 14b, 70 02 18 & a. 70 06 24

1970 05 02

Skinhead boys swarming again - may be ugliest season yet for worst of the thuggy cults to have risen in last 20 years; 1<sup>st</sup> reports violence late autumn, on Dec 16 (1969) police set up mobile skinhead patrol; three coach loads of Lincoln supporters turned back en route Cambridge United [6.6]

1970 06 01

New police HQ opens, closing St Andrews Street & Castle Hill stations [4.9]

1970 10 09

Parkside police station official opening – 70 10 09a

1970 10 13

Proctors not to attend student political demonstrations which take place off university premises; they will subject only to police and civil law – 70 10 13; students vote to end proctors – 70 10 13b

1971 02 08

Home Secretary Reginald Maudling visit to speak to University Conservatives; it took the biggest security operation ever in Cambridge to protect the meeting at The Leys School, ends without trouble – 71 02 08a, b # c.33

1971 02 08

Jewel raid at Saqui & Lawrence, raiders break through wall to steal £5,000 rings – 71 02 08

1971 07 10

Police ‘deliberate campaign against homosexuals’ [6.1]

1971 10 07

Last Quarter sessions, Guildhall - transferred to Wisbech [3.5]

1971 11 17

Last Assizes. Guildhall - now major cases heard at Norwich or London, last Judge’s procession from Trinity College [3.6]

1972 01 11

First sitting of Cambridge Crown Court [3.7]

1973 11 19

United soccer fans go wild, for second week, 13 arrested [14.11]

1974 04

Police change name to Cambridgeshire Constabulary [4.10]

1974 12 09

The rapist terrorising girls in Cambridge’s bed-sit land claimed his fourth victim in two months when he struck in the Newnham area of the city yesterday. It was the fifth attack on single girls living alone. Four have been raped and one fought her attacker off on the doorstep. The man leading the 20-strong special police squad, Detective Superintendent Bernard Hotson said today: “We are looking for an extremely sick and dangerous man”

1975 03 17

Newcastle football fans on rampage

1975 03 20

An anonymous little dog-leg road near Mitcham's corner Cambridge is typical of many roads interlacing the grey huddle of bed-sit suburbia on the flanks of Cambridge. But on the night of October 18th last year its cover of anonymity was blown. It was on that night that an unsuspecting girl became a victim and a burglar became a rapist. Between then and December the rapist claimed five victims and sexually assaulted a sixth. During that time 130 policemen were trying to catch him. They didn't succeed. He is still at large.

1975 05 10

Vigilante patrols have been formed in some bed-sit areas of Cambridge by householders anxious to protect single girls from the Cambridge rapist –but the groups are not welcomed by the police. The Cambridge MP, David Lane, dropped in unannounced at police headquarters to offer his support and encouragement to detectives hunting the city rapist.

1975 10 03

“Cambridge Rapist” convicted following attacks between Oct 1974 & June 1975. Four people who helped police to end the Cambridge Rapist's reign of terror and the detective who made the arrest share the £1,500 reward offered by the CEN and two businessmen. They each played a significant part in the arrest which led to the conviction of the rapist who jailed for life at Norwich Crown Court for the Cambridge rapes and other attacks on girls.

1975 11 10

Afternoon of violence, football supporters' three-hour clash with police [14.16]

1975 11 20

The first cannabis resin distillery to be found in Cambridge was discovered when drugs squad detectives raided a house on the north side of the city. After a tip-off police surrounded a private house in a residential area. Inside they found various pieces of equipment along with drugs substances. They took away tubing and bottles which forensic scientists are examining. They believe distilled resin has been used to impregnate non-drug vegetable matter and foodstuffs for consumption by drug users. Police regard their find as important in a city where soft drug abuse is fairly widespread

75 11 20

1976 03 12

Police promise better liaison with gay community [6.2]

1976 03 31

First community service order [3.12]

1976 08 18

“Soccer hooligans run wild” 76 08 18

1976 09 18

Soccer “hooligans run riot in night of terror” 79 09 18

1978 07 01

“Thin blue line halted rampaging city mob”; “in terms of quantity & quality Cambridge United have worst fans in the land” [15.7-8]

1978 02 27

The foundation of the largest LSD ring the world has ever seen were laid in Cambridge in 1970, a court was told. Five men living in Cambridge at the time launched the operation that would end up supplying more than 90 per cent of Britain's LSD and more than 50 per cent of the world's total consumption of the drug, said the prosecutor at the start of the ‘Operation Julie’ trial. One man had

ordered a tablet-making machine to be delivered to him at the University Chemistry Laboratory and delivered drugs to a house in Cambridge by simply dropping them through the letter box

1979 03 09

“Cambridge a soft touch for hard drugs” [5.1]

1979 10 01

27 football fans arrested following violence [15.9-11]

1979 10 17

Chief Supt Jock Proctor who did the most to contain the drugs problem in Cambridge retires from the police in December. In 1966 he formed a Drugs Squad to combat what was then a new and growing problem. Other agencies joined to set up a proper containment procedure which has been copied elsewhere. It was unheard of in those days for police, social workers and psychiatrists to meet together with addicts, parents and the clergy but soon a basis of trust was established and worried parents would take their youngsters to a police station for advice, rather than prosecution CEN 17.10.1979

## **1980**

1980 01 23

The Cambridge police Patrol Group was set up in 1977. It is allocated specific targets and is free to concentrate on them until the problems are solved. Following outbreaks of crime such as handbag snatching or stolen bicycles they will ‘flood’ an area in an intensive detection campaign. The results are impressive with 97 arrests in recent months and a drop of 400 in the number of crimes recorded last year coupled with an increase of 500 in the number of prisoners arrested. 80 01 23

1980 06 30

Sea Cadets have discovered a hoard of sunken treasure worth thousands of pounds in the River Cam. Their boat’s engine failed and it was found that a fur wrap had fouled the propeller. Whilst attempting to free it they discovered parts of a suitcase containing silver cups, candelabra and boxes of jewels. Police put a guard on the river until divers could carry out a full search. It is thought to be the proceeds of a major crime and is now locked away at Cambridge police station 80 06 30b

1980 12 09

Cambridgeshire police will lose its cadet force and 35 extra officers it planned to cope with the increased population after £250,000 was cut from its budget. But this is half what had first been proposed. A ‘frightening’ number of police officers are leaving within two years of joining up; although it is a well-paid job young people today find the night duties and late turns upsetting 80 12 09

1981 04 21

Three valuable painting of Henry VI, Henry VII and Henry VIII have been stolen from King’s College, Cambridge. All are contemporary works in oil on wood or panel. They were taken along with their frame from the college’s main hall and people thought they had been removed for cleaning. 81 04 21a

1981 05 12

Glue-sniffing first came to this country about 10 years ago and there have been isolated outbreaks since then, but the revival of the craze among a group of Cambridge youngsters has caused concern. Police say there are no more than a dozen involved and it is not a major problem yet. One 14-year-old punk, a veteran glue-sniffer of three months, admitted stealing pots of glue and said “My mother doesn’t want me to do it but I just like it and don’t care” 81 05 12 [5.3]

1981 10 05

51 arrested as football fans run wild – Chelsea [15.15]

1981 10 16

“Pub battle, 46 arrests”- Norwich fans [15.16]

1982 01 20

People “willing to defend houses with pitchforks” from football hooligans [15.17]

1983 06 28

“Are up to 350 drug addicts” [5.4]

1983 09 12

Assistant Chief Constable Bernard Hotson is leaving the force after 37 years. He became internationally known as the man who led the hunt for the Cambridge rapist and also played an important part in the conviction of the Buckden murderer in 1968. He joined the Metropolitan Police in 1946, transferring to Ely three years later. He became head of the southern section of the CID based in Cambridge. He has had a very distinguished career and his knowledge of the county is second to none 83 09 12 p13

1984 01 04

Behind barred windows in Cambridge city police station there is an office that contains files on people of interest to the police and other branches of the security service. They are profiles of people who may have not committed a criminal act in their lives and are listed without their knowledge or consent. They include peace campaigners, trades union activists, journalists and civil rights organisers. Every foreigner coming to Cambridge must register at what is officially called ‘The Aliens Office’. Its other name is the Special Branch Office, because that’s what it is: all the information is made available to MI5 84 01 04 p13

1984 02 13

United fans to blame in battle Chelsea, throat slashed, 92 arrested, three convicted Old Bailey May 85 [16.1]

1984 03 22

Twenty per cent of the Cambridgeshire police force is now away from the county helping control pickets at the Midlands coalfields. Five extra units, 110 men, leave today for Nottinghamshire, bringing to 200 the total number of county men involved in the operation. Four more are in Derbyshire helping to deal with the hundreds of miners protesting at pit closures. But Chief Supt Hardingham has no worries about local policing in their absence and can deal with all the situations which may arise 84 03 22 p1 [4.14]

1984 06 05

Parkside extension needed [4.11]

1984 10 02

Cambridge is a city of fear because many police officers are being sent to the Midlands on miners’ picket duties. At times there has been only one constable on patrol duty over the whole southern half of the city. Petty crime and vandalism is rising, councillors claim. Meanwhile Mrs Thatcher’s arch critic Francis Pym made a bitter attack on the Government’s handling of the strike at a News Literary Lunch 84 10 02 p1

1984 11 29

PC Bob Reynolds dies – 84 11 29 & a

1985 11 15

Cambridge's experimental Neighbourhood Watch scheme involves some 500 houses in Chesterton and is aimed at giving the police back-up in their fight against crime. If residents spot something suspicious they get in touch with the street co-ordinator who notifies the Home Beat Officer. The area is going up market and the major problems are the annual influx of fair people and visitors to the 'Bumps' whose inconsiderate parking causes anger. 85 11 15b

1986

New prosecution system with creation of Crown Prosecution Service replacing Police [3.20]

1986 07 18

Second neighbourhood watch scheme, first was at Chesterton a year ago [4.14]

1988 02 18

Cambridge Detective Agency operates from a home in Madras Road. In high-tech Cambridge industrial espionage is a danger every research company faces and domestic violence cases can turn very nasty. The most frightening job was to serve an eviction order on a group of campers in Thetford Forest. They were Hell's Angels with a habit of firing crossbow bolts through pub windows. But much of the work is tracing people, insurance investigations and divorce enquiries. The detective's wardrobe contains not only a pin-stripe suit but a host of disguises essential for surveillance such as false beards, moustaches and sideburns. When the agency started four years ago there were four private 'tecs in the city, now it is the only one. 88 02 18 & a

1988 09 29

Major police force shake-up €CEN 29.9.88

1988 11 03

Ambulance chief claims increased violence in streets €CEN 3.11.88

1989 08 16

Cambridge lost coroner after 1972 Local Government Act, then appointed by County Council though Durrell styled 'Honorary City Coroner', on his retirement R.Sterndale Burrows continued but with his death title now lapses €CEN 16.8.89

1990 06 06

Cambridgeshire Constabulary silver jubilee – feature – 90 06 06a, b